THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. After bifurcation of the State of Madhya Pradesh, no fresh proposal to set up growth centres in Borai has been received by Government of India. However, one growth centre has already been sanctioned in the year 1991 by Government of India under growth centre Scheme at Borai in erstwhile State of Madhya Pradesh, now in Chhattisgarh. The growth centre has become functional with the commencement of allotment of industrial plots there.

US embargo on import of steel pipes from India

4995. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is likely to be an embargo on import of steel pipes from India with the US producers of Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) filing a trade law petition on exporting countries including India;

(b) whether many exporters of steel pipes from India would be affected by this anti-dumping measures initiated by the OCTG producers of the US; and

(c) whether Government propose to contest the anti-dumping investigation proceedings and if so, what steps are being taken to represent the Indian exporters of steel pipes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) It is a fact that on the basis of the petition filed by the US producers on 2nd April, 2002, the US authorities have initiated an anti-dumping investigation against import of Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) from 4 countries including India.

(b) Two Indian exporters have been identified in the petition filed by the US producers. If the US authorities decide to impose dumping duties the two Indian exporters named in the petition will be directly affected also it may have impact on other exporters of the subject item.

(c) Under WTO provisions the anti-dumping investigation/measures is considered only when the exports are made at less than the normal value of the products and causes or threatens to cause material injury to an established domestic industry of the importing country. The response to the investigation has to be primarily by the exporters. The Government of the exporting country

has little role to play. However, Government of India has been extending all possible help deemed necessary to the Indian exporters in all such cases.

Jammu and Kashmir as a Tax Free Zone

4996. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to turn Jammu and Kashmir and also Uttaranchal into a "Tax Free Zone" for the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government have approved on 24th April, 2002 a new industrial policy and other concessions which include, *inter-alia*, extension of excise concession, investment subsidy and setting up of Jammu and Kashmir Development Finance Corporation etc., for implementation in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

A new industrial Policy and other concessions for the State of Uttaranchal is separately under consideration.

Production of virginia tobacco

4997. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka produces best quality virginia tobacco in the country;

(b) if so, the details of production of tobacco for the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to the target fixed by the Tobacco Board the growers were made to pay a penalty of Rs. 15 crores;

(d) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Board has fixed the target of production detrimental to the interests of the growers for the years, 2002-2003; and

(e) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to safeguard the intertest of the growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Flue Cured